

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing apparatus comprising:
information data processing means for obtaining
information data to be written on a first recording medium;
management information processing means for generating
recording medium management information concerning the first
recording medium, the recording medium management
information including (i) initialization time-and-date
information concerning time and date of initialization of
the first recording medium, (ii) creation time-and-date
information concerning time and date of creation of the
recording medium management information, and (iii) update
time-and-date information concerning time and date of update
of information data written on the first recording medium;
and
writing means for writing the information data and the
recording medium management information onto the first
recording medium.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
recording medium management information further includes
identification information that is unique to the first
recording medium, and said management information processing
means generates the identification information.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said management information processing means generates the identification information using an ID unique to the apparatus and a random number.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said management information processing means further changes the content of the update time-and-date information in response to an instruction for deleting information data written on the first recording medium, and said writing means writes the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising clock means for indicating current time and date, wherein said management information processing means changes the update time-and-date information in accordance with time and date information indicated by said clock means at the time of the instruction for deleting the information data.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, in a copy mode in which all information data written on a second recording medium is written onto the first recording medium,

said management information processing means changes the content of the creation time-and-date information without changing the contents of the initialization time-and-date information and the update time-and-date information of the recording medium management information concerning the second recording medium, and said writing means writes the recording medium management information concerning the second recording medium including the changed creation time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said management information processing means further changes the content of the update time-and-date information in response to an instruction for writing information data onto the first recording medium, and said writing means writes the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising clock means for indicating current time and date, wherein said management information processing means changes the update time-and-date information in accordance with time and date information from said clock means at the time of the instruction for writing the information data.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said management information processing means changes the contents of the initialization time-and-date information, the creation time-and-date information, and the update time-and-date information in response to an instruction for initializing the first recording medium, and said writing means writes the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said management information processing means further changes all of the initialization time-and-date information, the creation time-and-date information, and the update time-and-date information to a value indicating time and date of the initialization in response to the instruction for the initialization.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information data includes image data and audio data.

12. A data processing apparatus which reads information data from a first recording medium and writes the information data to a second recording medium, the data

processing apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading information data and first recording medium management information from the first recording medium, the first recording medium management information including (i) initialization time-and-date information concerning time and date of initialization of the first recording medium, (ii) creation time-and-date information concerning time and date of creation of the recording medium management information, and (iii) update time-and-date information concerning time and date of update of the information data written on the first recording medium;

management information processing means for generating second recording medium management information by changing, of the first recording medium management information read from said reading means, the content of the creation time-and-date information without changing the initialization time-and-date information and the update time-and-date information; and

writing means for writing the information data read by said reading means and the second recording medium management information onto the second recording medium.

13. A method for processing data, comprising:

an obtaining step, of obtaining information data to be

written on a first recording medium;

a processing step, of generating recording medium management information concerning the first recording medium, the recording medium management information including (i) initialization time-and-date information concerning time and date of initialization of the first recording medium, (ii) creation time-and-date information concerning time and date of creation of the recording medium management information, and (iii) update time-and-date information concerning time and date of update of information data written on the first recording medium; and

a writing step, of writing the information data and the recording medium management information onto the first recording medium.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the recording medium management information further includes identification information that is unique to the first recording medium, and the processing step further includes generating the identification information.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the processing step includes generating the identification information using an ID unique to the apparatus and a random number.

16. An method according to claim 13, wherein the processing step further includes changing the content of the update time-and-date information in response to an instruction for deleting information data written on the first recording medium, and the writing step includes writing the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a clocking step, of indicating current time and date, wherein the processing step includes changing the update time-and-date information in accordance with time and date information provided in the clocking step at the time of the instruction for deleting the information data.

18. A method according to claim 13, wherein, in a copy mode in which all information data written on a second recording medium is written onto the first recording medium, the processing step includes changing the content of the creation time-and-date information without changing the contents of the initialization time-and-date information and the update time-and-date information of the recording medium management information concerning the second recording

medium, and the writing step includes writing the recording medium management information concerning the second recording medium including the changed creation time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

19. A method according to claim 13, wherein the processing step further includes changing the content of the update time-and-date information in response to an instruction for writing information data onto the first recording medium, and the writing step includes writing the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

20. A method according to claim 19, further comprising a clocking step, of indicating current time and date, wherein the processing step includes changing the update time-and-date information in accordance with time and date information provided in the clocking step at the time of the instruction for writing the information data.

21. A method according to claim 13, wherein the processing step includes changing the contents of the initialization time-and-date information, the creation time-and-date information, and the update time-and-date

information in response to an instruction for initializing the first recording medium, and the writing step includes writing the recording medium management information including the changed update time-and-date information onto the first recording medium.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the processing step further includes changing all of the initialization time-and-date information, the creation time-and-date information, and the update time-and-date information to a value indicating time and date of the initialization in response to the instruction for the initialization.

23. A method according to claim 13, wherein the information data includes image data and audio data.

24. A method for reading information data from a first recording medium and writing the information data to a second recording medium, the method comprising:

a reading step, of reading information data and first recording medium management information from the first recording medium, the first recording medium management information including (i) initialization time-and-date information concerning time and date of initialization of

the first recording medium, (ii) creation time-and-date information concerning time and date of creation of the recording medium management information, and (iii) update time-and-date information concerning time and date of update of the information data written on the first recording medium;

a processing step, of generating second recording medium management information by changing, of the first recording medium management information read in the reading step, the content of the creation time-and-date information without changing the initialization time-and-date information and the update time-and-date information; and

a writing step, of writing the information data read in the reading step and the second recording medium management information onto the second recording medium.